

## PRESS RELEASE

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### POETIC EXPRESSIONS ILLUMINATE CAMBRIDGE BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS

[CBC's virtual artist-in-residence Hannah Jane Walker brings campus staff together through pandemic]

CAMBRIDGE—

Making Visible, a new piece of public art for the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC) by Hannah Jane Walker, has launched, inspired through working with CBC staff during the COVID pandemic.

Hannah Jane Walker's virtual residency at CBC invited clinicians, researchers and academics to take part in creative writing workshops to explore their own work and personal motivations. These sessions have been translated into text-based public art for the campus, to provide an insight into the life of a researcher.

*Making Visible* enabled participants to connect with colleagues from different research organisations on the campus and creatively reflect on the joys, pressures, and surprises of working within this sector. Together they created a universal message of the values and emotions shared by all campus users who each have their own relationship to improving human health and wellbeing. It is hoped that the process will ultimately lead to more collaboration across campus, with the aim of promoting discovery and healthcare breakthroughs.

Participants represented a wide range of campus organisations including CRUK Cambridge Institute, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge, and the Department of Surgery, University of Cambridge.

The group worked with Hannah to develop their conversations into key phrases that resonate with campus colleagues, patients and visitors. With a broad demographic in mind, they chose a shortlist of phrases that met the qualities of hope, connection, brightening and questioning. Three final phrases translated into the engaging neon text artworks are

**in the face of uncertainty | braver than you think you are | even when you don't know how**

*"There was a lot of conversation about the challenges and joys of their jobs, their connections or frustration at the lack of connections between organisations beyond sharing the output of their research. It revealed the reality of being a researcher, the bravery, the fear and the risk. I think a lot of the talk really was about resilience, vulnerability and hope."*  
Hannah Jane Walker

From July 2021 *Making Visible* will be exhibited across the campus as a travelling installation: in the foyers, windows and publicly accessible spaces of campus organisations for everyone to enjoy.

Following the tour, a final permanent location on campus will be selected for *Making Visible* by the CBC Public Art Steering Group. The artwork installation will be included in a planned CBC Public Art Trail for all to enjoy.

The CBC Artist in Residence Programme has been curated and managed by international cultural placemaking agency, Futurecity, who are also behind artist Ryan Gander's visioning for *The Green in the Gardens* in 2019. The programme is led and funded by property developers Countryside Properties and Liberty Property Trust under the s106 agreement with Cambridge City Council to deliver public art across the CBC expansion land. Walker was selected by the CBC Public Art Steering Group, made up of campus stakeholders and external advisors.

"At a time of increased physical disjointedness, *Making Visible* is a powerful reminder of art's ability to form human connections, enable expression and inspire collaboration. It is amazing to see these neon phrases hanging proudly in the CRUK Cambridge Institute for us all to enjoy – they are beautifully striking and thought-provoking - I can't wait to see where they appear next! Congratulations to Hannah and all the researchers involved," said **Natalie Ellis, Head of Arts, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

"After the completion of Ryan Gander's *The Green and the Garden's Liberty and Countryside* are excited by the potential for this commission to build and nurture unexpected collaborations between the CBC research and healthcare community that will support innovation in science and health", said **Andrew Blevins, Managing Director, Liberty Property Trust**.

"People need art now more than ever. Walker's artist-in-residence has quietly and beautifully captured the hearts and minds of campus staff and created public art that speaks to us all in these challenging times. The artworks lift our spirits and help us remember that we are not alone, but wholly connected and supporting each other", said **Andy Robinson, Head of Strategy, Futurecity**.

Further information:

## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY:**

**Hannah Jane Walker** is a writer from Saffron Walden and Cambridge. She makes work that uses poetry as a way of talking, in theatres, public spaces and for radio. Working for people such as BBC Radio 4, British Council, Apples and Snakes. With collaborator Chris Thorpe she has created interactive shows exploring questions which seem too simple to ask, winning a Fringe First and touring the world. Plays are published by Oberon and poetry by Nasty Little Press and Nine Arches. Poems in anthologies by Forest Fringe and Penned in the Margins. She often works with vulnerable groups collaborating to create artworks. She is an Associate Artist for Cambridge Junction and National Centre for Writing.

### **About Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC)**

Cambridge Biomedical Campus is a thriving community where the worlds of academia, industry, research and health meet, collaborate and work to tackle some of the significant healthcare challenges facing the world today. As the largest employment site in Cambridge – encompassing renowned and much-loved hospitals – we are focused on ensuring patients benefit from the campus' world-leading research. The international nature of the collaborations cut across traditional boundaries to allow us to work together on care, research and training. Our success is based on everyone's willingness to unite to exert a powerful global influence as the campus attracts world class companies, investment and talent to Cambridge with the aim of improving healthcare and knowledge. For more information visit [www.cambridge-biomedical.com](http://www.cambridge-biomedical.com)

### **About the CBC Public Art Programme**

The CBC Public Art Programme is delivering major public art projects as fully integrated elements of the CBC development. A landmark public art commission has designed the campus' new focal point 20,000sq.m. The Green & The Campus public realm. Alongside this is a campus wide Artist-in-Residence programme that is commissioning artists from a range of disciplines to work within and across campus organisations to engage patients, staff and wider public audiences in the campus' ground-breaking work. The programme will be completed with further commissions linked to Phase 2 of the campus expansion. Artists will be commissioned to create new types of public art for the green public realm that is coming forward as part of the Phase 2 design.

### **The developer of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus is Cambridge Medipark Limited, a joint venture between:**

**Countryside** is a leading UK developer specialising in place making and urban regeneration with experience in delivering commercial development across the full range of market sectors which complement its highly successful residential and mixed-use schemes. Countryside's main emphasis is on developing commercial space allied to its new communities or regeneration opportunities, such as the Great Kneighton development which adjoins the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Founded in 1958, Countryside is listed on the London Stock Exchange and operates across London, the South East and the North West of England.

### **Liberty Property Trust, a Prologis Company**

**Prologis, Inc.** is the global leader in logistics real estate with a focus on high-barrier, high-growth markets. As of June 30, 2021, the company owned or had investments in, on a wholly owned basis or through co-investment ventures, properties and development projects expected to total approximately 995 million square feet (92 million square meters) in 19 countries. Prologis leases modern logistics facilities to a diverse base of approximately 5,500 customers principally across two major categories: business-to-business and retail/online fulfillment.

**Futurecity Ltd** is a cultural placemaking agency that creates cultural strategies, brokers cultural partnerships and delivers major arts projects for clients across the public and private sectors. Founded by Mark Davy in 2007, Futurecity has produced over 125 cultural strategies, brokered over 20 cultural partnerships, and worked on over 100 artist commissions for clients across four continents. In 2017, Sherry Dobbin joined as Partner, bringing her expertise across new cultural development models, public-private partnerships, and international programming experience. Futurecity has worked with Countryside Properties PLC, Liberty Property Trust and CBC organisations since 2009 to develop and implement the CBC Public Art Programme, and in 2019 Futurecity delivered the widely acclaimed *The Green and the Gardens* led by artist Ryan Gander.